

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Prof. H. R. Palmer and wife sailed for America, May 18th, in the *Scythia*.
—Bishop Perry, of Iowa, is a voluminous author. He is now only in middle life and has already issued 43 volumes, all either edited or written by himself. His bent is history.

—The marriage of Prof. Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen, to Miss Elizabeth M. Keen, daughter of William B. Keen, formerly of Keen, Cook & Co., of Chicago, is announced for the 27th of June, in New York.

—The late Catherine Beecher was the teacher of a girls' seminary in Cincinnati in 1832. She was for many years a teacher, and was also engaged in establishing girls' schools in various parts of what used to be the West.

—It is told of Hans Christian Andersen that his geography was as fanciful as his fairy tales. He invariably addressed his American publishers as "Hurd & Houghton, Astor Place, New York, Riverside Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States."

—Mr. James Gordon Bennett, if he takes care of his health and his money, ought to become one of the richest men in the country. He has some expensive tastes, but he is not a spendthrift by any means. He is now verging on 40, and is unmarried.

—The daughter of Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Miss Henrietta Dana, has gone over to the Roman Catholic Church. She was the schoolmate at a Parisian convent of Queen Mercedes, about whom she wrote an article in a recent number of *Scribner*.

—At a recent sale of autographs in London, Johnson's signature to a receipt went for only three guineas, though such a document must have been rare indeed, for the Doctor was, according to Boswell, in the habit of forgetting the names of the subscribers to his books, and spending the money, so that it is not likely he was ever fond of giving receipts for it.

—Josh Billings (Henry W. Shaw) is reported to have made more money than any American author by persistent working of his peculiar vein of humor. Some years he has got \$4,000 from a weekly newspaper for his exclusive contributions, and has made besides \$5,000 or \$6,000 in lecturing.

—A performance, arranged by Miss Kate Field, was given at the Gaiety Theater, London, May 23, in aid of the Shakespeare Memorial Theater, Library and Gallery, at Stratford-on-the-Avon. Miss Field made an address, and appeared in her own comedietta, "Eyes Right," and sang, "Angels Ever Bright and Fair."

—Theodore Schwann, the famous author of the cell-theory, which he announced in 1839, is still alive and teaching as Professor of Physiology in the Belgian University. His discovery constituted him the real founder of modern histology. The fortieth anniversary of his professorship will be shortly celebrated in the city of Liege, on which occasion it is proposed to present him with an album containing photographs of all the leading biologists of Europe.

—Grace Greenwood thus writes on the "Woman Question": "If I had the forming of the law only such women should be allowed to vote as had sewing-machines and knew how to use them; no woman would have a vote who could not read and write; who was not able to cast up her millinery accounts, and cut them down; who could not make a loaf of bread, a pudding, sew on a button, wash dishes and, on a pinch, keep a boarding-house, and support a husband decently."

School and Church.

—There are 13 different denominations of Methodists in the United States.

—Mr. Spurgeon's church has now 5,045 members, being the largest society under the care of one man in the world.

—Rev. Florence McCarthy, who some time ago left the Baptist ministry in Chicago for the law, has joined the Methodist Church on probation.

—Eight hundred persons have joined the churches of Hartford as the fruit of the meetings held in that city by Messrs. Moody and Sankey.

—The German Baptists have dedicated a new publishing-house in Cleveland, O. Their society publishes one weekly and three monthly papers, besides numerous books.

—The Professors of Yale do not suffer from poverty. Ex-President Wolsey is assessed upon a property of \$47,326; Professor Dwight on \$51,290; Professor Silliman on \$37,600, and Professor Hopkin on \$34,781.

—A Summer School of Natural History will be held at "The Illinois State Museum of Natural History," at Normal. The classes will open June 26, and continue to July 24, under the charge of Mr. S. A. Forbes.

—Rev. Dong Gong, a converted Chinaman of Portland, Oregon, is assaulted every day by his countrymen, and has narrowly escaped assassination twice. He still preaches Christianity, however, but carries two revolvers.

—Bishop Stevens, of Pennsylvania, has recently gone through the formula of "deposing from the ministry" the Rev. William Newton, of Philadelphia, who withdrew from the Protestant Episcopal and joined the Reformed Episcopal Church.

—The Presbytery of Cincinnati has passed resolutions against going to theaters, circuses and balls, and also saying that Presbyterians must not dance, nor play cards. These resolutions further lament the prevalence of "hill-top and suburban resorts" where beer is sold and Sunday is desecrated.

—Dr. John Hall opposes the practice of advertising the subject of sermons, and advises his brethren not to be tempted into it. He considers the results of this to be that "the poor, uneducated owners of itching ears and vacant minds have a good time, and persuade themselves that they are talking religion when discussing the relative merits of the performances."

—The Society of Friends has purchased thirty acres of land at Bryn-Major, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, as the site for a large college for "the better education of females." It will be of the same class and grade as Haverford College, and the ground, with the building and its endowment, will be worth together about \$1,000,000.

Science and Industry.

—An Epsom salts mine has been discovered about 12 miles from Chattanooga, Tenn. The deposit is 2 feet thick, and easy of access. It is pure, and only requires crushing to make it marketable.

—Tool steel is generally first hardened by heating it to a cherry-red and then plunging it into cold water. Afterward the temper is drawn by moderately heating the steel again.

—A firm in Richmond, Va., has ready a second steam fire-engine for the city of St. Petersburg, Russia. This same firm just before the war built the first engine used in the Muscovite Capital.

—Norway has some curious exhibits at the Paris Exhibition. She has fish-skins tanned for gloves; eel-skins prepared for harness; shark-skins, 10 feet long and 3 feet wide, for various purposes; and whale-skins, 60 feet long, for driving-bands for machinery.

—Engraving on glass is now done with the aid of electricity. The glass is first covered with a concentrated solution of potassium nitrate, and the design is traced with a fine platinum point connected with one pole of a battery.

—It has been proved in regard to railways that rails placed in the direction of the magnetic meridian are affected quite differently from rails placed at right angles to this direction; the former oxidize and do not become brittle; the latter do not oxidize, but do become brittle; in intermediate directions the rails participate more or less in the qualities of those which are placed in the two extreme directions.

—Prof. R. Weber, of Berlin, has obtained the prize of the Berlin Verein fuer Gewerbebeiss for his investigation of the causes of mill fires. He shows that all sorts of flour in dust clouds are inflammable, and that some of the so-called fire-damp explosions of coal mines are really caused by the ignition of the clouds of dust floating in the atmosphere of mines. Free and steady ventilation will greatly diminish the danger of destructive explosions in mills, and those of "dry mines" can be nearly made impossible by occasionally sprinkling the headings and galleries with water conveyed in flexible pipes from the pit-mouth.

Haps and Mishaps.

—Daniel S. Myers, a well known horse-trainer, was killed at Lima, O., by being thrown out of a buggy and striking against a hitching-post.

—At Providence, R. I., a young man named Martin, while playing base-ball, ruptured a blood-vessel, which resulted in instantaneous death.

—Near Alliance, O., Wm. Mate, aged 15, son of John Mate, was instantly killed by a piece of machinery which they were unloading from a wagon.

—Daniel Moon, of Tipton Township, Ind., while driving a load of hay was thrown from his wagon and received the prongs of a pitchfork full length in his abdomen, causing fatal injuries.

—Mrs. Margaret Keifner, an old lady of 80, was killed while crossing the railroad track in the suburbs of Cincinnati. Four years ago her son was killed at the same crossing and in a precisely similar manner.

—At Bellefonte, Pa., George Watson and Alfred Rankin both drank from a bottle which they probably supposed to be whisky, but which was in fact carbolic acid. One of them died soon afterward and the other was not expected to recover.

—W. H. Colelaugh, Grand Trunk station-agent at Trenton, Ont., committed suicide by swallowing a quantity of sulphate of copper, which he took from a telegraphic battery in his office. He died almost immediately. It is supposed he was behind in his returns.

—Allen and John Campbell, of Union County, Miss., poisoned themselves fatally by eating the tubers of the plant commonly called hemlock (*contum maculata*) under the impression that it was ginseng. They died in violent convulsions three hours after eating the roots.

—John Bieler and Jimmie Locke, aged respectively 5 and 7 years, were instantly killed at Garrett City, Ind., by the explosion of a torpedo used by the railroad as a danger signal. The top of young Bieler's head was blown off, and Locke's skull and face were horribly mangled.

Foreign Notes.

—Next to Toole, John S. Clarke is said to be the most popular eccentric comedian on the English stage.

—It was a delightful idea of the pro-

prietor of a Paris hotel, who wished to make every thing as attractive as possible to his English visitors. On the carte was a thoroughly English entree. It was marked, "Bifteks a la Mouton-chop."

—Louis Roederer, the great champagne merchant, has been unseated by the French Assembly where he sat for Reims. The irregularity in his election was contained in his promise to buy up all the wine in the district if he were returned.

—Although China has long been known to possess enormous coal fields, the superstitions of the people have prevented all attempts to explore and use them up to the present time. It is worthy of note that a mandarin has at last obtained permission to form a company to work a coal mine about 120 miles west of Chefoo, with all the modern scientific appliances, and also to construct a tramway to the sea for transportation.

—Sir Francis Goldsmid, whose death is reported, was one of the most distinguished Hebrews in England. He was an excellent and cultivated man, taking deep interest in higher education, and in all important scientific and political affairs. He strictly maintained Hebrew customs, and in Parliament was spokesman for his persecuted brethren in the East. London University will long be grateful for the substantial aid bestowed by him.

—A serious attempt is about to be made in London, to introduce horseflesh as an article of food. It will be remembered that in 1868, a grand banquet was held at the Langham Hotel, at which the chief dishes at least of every course consisted of horseflesh dressed in a variety of ways. The dinner was pronounced to be a success. The Board of Works having sanctioned the establishment of slaughter-houses for horses intended for human food, hippophagy may be expected to have a fair trial in England.

—There will be opened in Paris on July 15 an institution known as the Tisserand Home. It was founded by a rich real estate owner of Montrouge for the accommodation of thirty old men born at that place, and his legacy was augmented by his widow. In England institutions for old men prove so little satisfactory for those for whom they are designed, that at Greenwich Hospital they have done away with indoor pensioners and give them an allowance for food instead.

—A short general summary of the vital statistics of France for 1876 is published. The births amounted 966,682, exclusive of those stillborn, and the deaths to 334,074; so that the increase of population was 132,608 persons. The stillborn numbered 44,680, and the marriages 291,366. These figures show that while France with a population of 36,000,000, that is, half as much again as that of England—namely, 24,000,000—had an increase of population amounting to 132,000, the increase in the latter country reached 205,000, half as much again as France. While in England there is one birth to 28 inhabitants, in France there is not quite one birth to 36.

—King Humbert, of Italy, is profuse in his gifts. In general his presents is a watch, gold or silver, according to the rank of the recipient, with the crown and stem upon the back of it, and a chain with a locket attached. On the anniversary of his birthday he called all the *corazzieri* who had assisted in guarding the body of Victor Emmanuel into the Hall of the Swiss, and when they were ranged in order the little Prince of Naples presented each of the thirty with a watch and chain in the name of his father. To the six chiefs of the *carabinieri* he gave horses which they selected from the Royal stables, having previously looked these gift-horses in the mouth.

Odds and Ends.

—If you wish to preserve your constitution, you must first carefully observe the bile laws.—*Whithall Times*.

—The man who wrote, "Revolutions never go backward," had never turned a back somersault over the tail-board of a farm-wagon.—*Detroit Free Press*.

—The poor man out West whose wife dealt him triplets the other day, looked at them gloomily and exclaimed: "Three of a kind and nothing in the pot; just my luck!"

—Why is it, my dear sir," said Waffles's landlady to him the other day, "that you newspaper men never get rich?" "I do not know," was the reply, "except it is that dollars and sense do not always travel together."

—Pat's description of a fiddle is very old, but it has never been excelled: "It was the shape of a turkey, and the size of a goose; he turned it over on its back and rubbed its belly with a stick, and ooh! St. Patrick! how it did squeal!"

—A scrawny-looking individual came into the office, the other morning, to advertise his wife who had left him, that people should not trust her on his account. He asked the book-keeper the price, and when told, said, in some surprise: "Is that so? Why, that's what I paid to advertise my first wife. I thought prices might have come down."

—*Danbury News*.

—P. T. Barnum says: "I tell you, as a showman, you can't make animals drink whisky. They know better." The showman is mistaken. We once heard a woman call out of a second-story window at an object that for nearly an hour had been trying in vain to unlock the front door: "Drunk again, you old hog, are you?" And if a hog isn't an animal, what is it?—*Norristown Herald*.

—A boy in a Sunday-school proposed a question to be answered the Sunday

following: "How many letters does the Bible contain?" The answer was three million five hundred and thirty thousand three hundred and thirty-three. The Superintendent says to James, "Is that right?" "No, sir," was the prompt reply. "Will you please tell us how many there are, then?" "Twenty-six, sir."

—The following is the Chinese version of Mary and her lamb:

Was gal name Moll had lamb,
Eke all samee white snow,
Evly place Moll gal walkee,
Ba fta hoppee long too.

—Exchange.

We heard a son of Erin trying to surround Mary and her little lamb the other day, and this is the way he understood it:

Begorry, Mary had a little shape,
And the wool was white intortly:
An' whenever Mary wud sthir her stumps,
The young shape would follow her completely.

—*Council Bluffs Globe*.

So celebrated a poem should have a French version:

La petite Marie had le jeune mutton,
Zee wool was blanches as ze snow,
And evrywhere la belle Marie went,
Le jeune mutton was zure to go.

—*Stanford Advocate*.

Oui, monsieur; you avez un very large imagination; mais comment est this, pour Deutsche:

Dot Mary haf got ein leedle schaf;
Mit hair yust like some vool;
Und all der blace dot gal did vent,
Das schaf go like ein fool.

—*Blackrock Republican*.

THE TERRIBLE TORNADO.

Great Loss of Life and Destruction of Property.

DUBUQUE, IOWA, May 24.—The *Herold* has the following special concerning the tornado at Mineral Point, Wis.: The terrible tornado which struck Mineral Point Thursday evening entered from the southwest direction. It first struck the lead-smelting furnaces of James Spencer, tearing them almost to ruins. It next carried off the house of John Coleman, badly injuring Mr. Coleman, his two daughters, and Tip Allen, who were in the house at the time. It then struck the residence of John Spensley, carrying the house from its foundation, and in another instant shattering it to splinters. Mr. Spensley's barn was taken up and carried off. A horse which was in the barn was carried away with it, and neither horse nor barn, or any portion of either of them, has been found. Some friends of Mr. Spensley, from Dubuque, part of whom were in the house at the time the tornado struck it, escaped by taking refuge in the cellar, but Mrs. Walter, mother of John Walter and Mrs. Spensley, was carried off with the house. The house of Mr. Lofard was next uplifted from its foundation in an instant and shivered to atoms, carrying with it Mrs. Lofard, whose body was found about 100 yards distant, mangled in a fearful manner. The roof of Mr. Addington's stone house was taken up in the air and carried 100 yards. Benjamin Bennett's house was totally destroyed and Mrs. Bennett thrown over a wood-pile, escaping with but little injury. The houses of Jas. Prince and Wm. Jacka were destroyed, while a barn situated between them was left uninjured. At the brewery of C. Gillman the storm did the greatest damage, carrying off the houses of Mr. Gillman and Mr. Adams and badly injuring a Miss Zimmer. The brewery building and the barn connected therewith were totally demolished, and a number of a valuable horses killed. The loss to Mr. Gillman will reach upwards of \$15,000 or \$20,000. Houses situated in the Summer Garden of Mr. John Jenck, opposite the brewery building, were destroyed, and Mrs. Myers and Mary Jenck were killed. Mr. Bohan's family, who lived a short distance from the garden, were dangerously injured, and Mrs. Bohan died about midnight. The house of Martin O'Dowd was reduced to ruins. Mr. Beardsley's house and barn were carried seven and eight rods from their foundation. Wm. Locking's house was taken, and nothing left but a few pieces of furniture. A school-house, about two and a half miles east of the city, was carried off with the teacher and scholars. Two scholars, a brother and sister, were killed, and the teacher slightly injured. The teacher, while holding one of the smaller scholars in her arms, was thrown several rods. Most of the children were unhurt. The storm in no way abated after it left the city, but seemed to increase in fury, breaking down every thing before it. Mr. Foley, a prominent man, was killed in the town of Waldwick, as well as one or two Norwegians, whose names can not be learned.

Among those reported killed and injured are the following: Mr. Vernon—Wm. Osborne, wife and child; Paoli—Family of A. P. Clarke, slightly injured; Oregon—Wife and children of M. McCarthy, badly injured; Mr. and Mrs. Pierce seriously can't recover; Montrose—Wife of John Galena killed, others badly injured.

An eye witness says the killed, so far as he could learn, were John Coleman, Mrs. Leonard, Dan Zimmer's daughter, of Highland; two children of Mr. Beardsley, Mr. and Mrs. Bohan, Wm. Ooley, of Waldwick; and Mr. Cramer, of the same place.

MADISON, WIS., May 24.—The tornado which passed over this place last night proves to have been more widespread and destructive than was thought last night. The storm came from the direction of southwest, passing through a section of the State where no telegraphic communication is established, hence details of the great destruction and loss of life are meager. Enough has been received, however, to show the devastation and sacrifice of property and life has been appalling. In the vicinity of Primrose, 25 miles southwest of this city, and from there through Mount Vernon to Paoli, the storm seems to have done widespread damage. From 25 to 30 barns and farm-houses were blown down, some of them utterly destroyed and the debris carried off in the mighty avalanche of wind, some of it falling twelve and fifteen miles away, one shutter of a house falling in Lake Mendota near this city. Some twelve or eighteen persons are known to have been killed and large numbers seriously injured. Graphic yet terrible descriptions are given of the terrible effect of the tornado. Teams and wagons are reported taken from roads and carried in the air, and dashed to the ground. At Dr. George Fox's, near Oregon, two valuable horses in a pasture were taken up 100 feet in the air, carried fifty rods, and dashed to the earth, killing them instantly. The storm came from the direction of Mineral Point, where it wrought such terrible damage. It raised from the ground seven or eight miles southwest of Madison, and again striking the earth near Port Atkins, northeast of here. Near Primrose and Paoli, the storm seemed from a half to a mile in width and swept every thing before it, mowing down trees, fences, barns, houses and shrubbery as if with a scythe. Further returns may be had to-night.

The Mississippi Jetties.

A report is going the rounds of the press that Captain Eads has asked to be released from his engagement to create a channel of 30 feet through the jetties, and has abandoned the undertaking as a failure. This report rose from the fact that Captain Eads is now in Washington advising that a modification be made, which will not require the 30-foot channel to be more than 100 feet in width. With such width the 24-foot channel would probably be not less than 400 feet wide, and the 22-foot channel about 500 feet. The act under which Captain Eads is operating requires a channel nowhere less than 30 feet deep for a width of 350 feet, and it is thought that to create such a width of 30 feet water between the jetties will be injudicious and tend to injure them. Captain Eads expressed this to the committee when the original bill was being drawn, and he is confirmed in his opinion by observation at the jetties, and therefore proposes the modification referred to above. As an increase of the flow into the pass can be readily obtained, not one-tenth of the whole discharge being used, it remains entirely for the Government to say whether the stipulated size shall be adhered to or not. There is now a depth of 23½ feet in the whole length of the channel, and in one part a hollow of 80 feet in depth has been created by the current through the jetties. By the terms of the law the contractor has until September of next year to create a channel 24 feet deep, but so fast has the work advanced that it is probable that a channel 250 feet wide, of a depth of 24 feet, will be obtained during this month, as but 3,740 cubic yards of material is in the way of its realization.

Captain Eads also asks for a modification of the mode of paying him for the work done. Upwards of 80 per cent. of the work required to complete the jetties has been done, and less than 20 per cent. of the contract price has been paid by the Government. The delay in payments under the present act is so great that it is impossible to push the work as rapidly as the public interests require. The work is now so far advanced and the success so pronounced that it is for the interests of the Government and the country that the work shall be pushed with the utmost vigor to such a point as shall insure the utmost efficiency of action in increasing the capacity of the channel. The board of engineers to whom the question of the modification of the terms of the act was referred approves of it, and it would certainly seem to be good policy to give Captain Eads all the facilities he needs in forwarding the work, due regard being had to the proper progress of the channel, that the money be not advanced faster than the work is performed and the permanent depth of the water assured.

—*Scientific American*.

The Fan in Japan.

The Japanese claim to be the inventors of the fan—especially the open-and-shut fan, which they have had over eleven centuries. Every Japanese man, woman, and child uses and can make fans. The etiquette of the fan is a science with them. Japan is now the fan-emporium of the world, yet there is not a fan-manufacture in the whole Empire. Every body can make them, and they afford pleasant employment for the aged and very young, the genteel and respectable of all classes, to whom laborious or constant application would be impossible. Trifling sums are thus earned by these classes in their own homes. The Samourai classes furnish the best painters and decorators. Born and raised to arms and Government service, they have little else to occupy themselves with; so they turn to art—the painting of fans, screens, etc. As their numbers are large, and their pensions sufficient for their needs, the result in this direction is prolific, and the cost but small.

As your vessel drops anchor in Japanese waters, custom-house officers come aboard with their fans. The *sentos* (sailors) who pulled the boat in which they came will be seen, naked except their loin-cloths, fanning themselves after their exertion. At the landing-place you will see policemen with their fans. The Jirick-sha men, who pull you on their perambulator-like carts, at horse-speed, over all roads, will have their fans. The blacksmith waiting for a heat will pull and use his fan as gracefully as a lady to cool his person; his fan becomes a tool in brazing or welding a nice joint. It is the dust-pan, memorandum-tablets, correction-rod for children and naughty gentlemen; the balance-pole of the rope-dancer; signal stick of gymnastics, and all theatricals and pantomimes; takes the place of tray, card-receiver, etc., when these are not at hand; of bellows in starting fires, and of a blower of many of their cooking and other processes; decorates their ceilings, walls, cabinets, etc. They are used to mark rank, office, calling, and to designate functions. Every body plays slight-of-hand tricks with them. There is the iron-bound fan of the warrior, to be worn with armor; there are siletto and poison fans; fans for all kinds of ceremonies and advertisements, and made in endless varieties and of countless materials—skins of reptiles, fish, birds, animals, silk, satin, hemp, cotton, papers, tree-bark and leaves, cane, shell, bone, ivory, metals, wood, etc.; fans from ten to the cent to \$1,000 and more each.—*William H. Doyle, in Chicago Tribune*.

In a nursery wherein all is life and laugh instead of crying and fretting, there is sure to be found Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup. Price, 25 cents a bottle.

THOMAS J. CLAY, a grandson of Henry Clay, is a soldier in the regular army in Texas.